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Letter dated 20 June 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Singapore in May 2002 (see annex). The assessment was prepared pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451). While other members of the Security Council were consulted on its contents, the assessment was prepared under my own responsibility and should not be considered as representing the views of the Security Council.

I would be grateful if this letter and the attached assessment could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kishore **Mahbubani**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

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Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Singapore (May 2002)

Introduction

1. The objective of Singapore's presidency in May 2002 was to ensure that the Security Council carried out its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations promptly and effectively. A paper outlining our specific objectives was issued as a document of the Security Council (S/2002/519).

2. Towards this end, Singapore consolidated the procedural innovations and best practices of previous presidencies in active agenda management to make Council deliberations more efficient and effective. For better time management and to make its discussion more interactive and analytical, Singapore circulated a non-paper laying down some guidelines on working methods. In particular, emphasis was placed on thorough advance preparations before each meeting, so that the work of the Security Council would be more results-oriented. As far as possible, annotated agenda were issued before and displayed during meetings.

3. Singapore is fully aware that in carrying out its responsibility under the Charter, the Security Council acts on the behalf of United Nations Member States. In this regard, Singapore was committed to transparency measures to make the Security Council more open and accountable, providing as much information as possible on the presidency web site (www.mfa.gov.sg/unsc/presidency02). In addition to striving to be responsive to the general United Nations membership, the Singapore presidency also sought to be accessible to other parts of the United Nations family as well as to the members of the press and non-governmental organizations.

Overview

4. Africa being a major focus of the Singapore presidency, the Security Council held a day-long public meeting on the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Professor S. Jayakumar. The debate was deep and wide-ranging, with a very high level of participation by the wider membership. One breaking development that the Council monitored closely was the situation in Kisangani following the seizure of the principal local radio station by mutinous elements of RCD-Goma. The Middle East, including the Palestinian question, saw intensive deliberation during the first few days of the Singapore presidency. Over 54 hours, there were exhaustive and difficult discussions on the question of the fact-finding team to the Jenin refugee camp. East Timor also featured significantly in the Singapore presidency: a resolution was adopted on the establishment of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET); a public meeting was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore marking East Timor's independence; and a resolution was adopted recommending East Timor's admission to membership in the United Nations. The final week of the Singapore presidency culminated in a substantive wrap-up session on the work for the Council for the month, at which 33 speakers made concise and constructive interventions in the private meeting that lasted just under three hours. A non-paper summarizing the key areas and suggestions for follow-up action has been prepared under the responsibility of the Singapore delegation and circulated as a Council document.

5. During the month of May, the Security Council held a total of 24 formal meetings, 19 in public and 5 in private. Besides the public meetings on the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, marking East Timor's independence, and recommending East Timor's admission to membership in the United Nations; significant public meetings were also held on children and armed conflict, the report of the Council mission to the Great Lakes region, and Afghanistan. Private back-to-back meetings were held with the representatives of Eritrea and Ethiopia. In addition, the Security Council met in private with troop-contributing countries in connection with the establishment of UNMISET and the renewal of the

mandate of UNDOF. The substantive wrap-up session was also held in private.

6. The members of the Security Council met in informal consultations of the whole a total of 18 times in May. Issues dealt with included the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Liberia, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, East Timor, Cyprus, Georgia, Kosovo, Iraq, the Middle East, and two recent mandates given to the informal Working Group of the Security Council concerning the Council's documentation and other procedural questions. Council members also heard in informal consultations a briefing by the Secretary-General on Iraq and the outcome of the Quartet meeting on 3 May, and a briefing by the President on the outcome of the Security Council retreat on 10 and 11 May. Arria formula meetings were held on the Middle East and the Mano River Union. The working groups on Africa, procedures and documentation, the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, sanctions and peacekeeping operations all met in the month of May. On 6 May, the President gave an informal briefing to non-Council members on the provisional programme of work for May.

7. In May, the Security Council adopted a total of nine resolutions and seven presidential statements. The resolutions are 1407 (2002), concerning the appointment of a team of experts on the sanctions against Somalia; 1408 (2002), by which the sanctions against Liberia were extended for another year, until 7 May 2003; 1409 (2002), approving the revision of the humanitarian programme for Iraq and extending the humanitarian programme for another 180 days; 1410 (2002), authorizing the establishment of UNMISET; 1411 (2002), amending the statutes of the International Tribunals; 1412 (2002), by which the travel ban for members of UNITA was suspended for 90 days; 1413 (2002), extending the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan for a further six months; 1414 (2002), recommending East Timor's admission to membership in the United Nations; resolution 1415 (2002), extending the mandate of UNDOF for six months beyond 20 June. Presidential statements were adopted on children and armed conflict (S/PRST/2002/12), East Timor (S/PRST/2002/13), the elections in Sierra Leone (S/PRST/2002/14), the admission of new Members (S/PRST/2002/15), Kosovo (S/PRST/2002/16), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/PRST/2002/17) and UNDOF (S/PRST/2002/18).

8. The Council issued five notes by the President. These related to the Security Council's annual report to the General Assembly (S/2002/199); formalizing an existing practice by which non-members of the Council speaking at Council meetings are seated on alternate sides of the President (S/2002/591); the President's statement on the occasion of Africa Day (S/2002/597); a report prepared by the Secretariat on procedural developments in the Council in 2001 (S/2002/603); and the follow-up to the Council meeting of 22 May on the ad hoc working group on Africa (S/2002/607). The President also made nine press statements on behalf of Council members. They were on Eritrea/Ethiopia, Cyprus, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Kosovo and Somalia.

Africa

Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

9. The President attended a meeting of the African Group on 15 May together with the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul, Permanent Representative of Mauritius. At the meeting, the President and the Chairman of the Working Group explained the purpose, format and objective of the open meeting on the Working Group scheduled for 22 May. Members of the African Group welcomed the opportunity to provide inputs and feedback to the Security Council on how the Ad Hoc Working Group could help improve the Security Council's work on Africa. It was agreed that the meeting should produce a genuine dialogue between the Council and non-Council members. In this regard, Council members were encouraged not to prepare set statements but to react to the statements made by non-Council members after they had spoken.

10. The third meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group was held on 16 May, with the participation of the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahima Fall. The first agenda item concerned cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The OAU Permanent Observer, Ambassador Amadou Kébé, gave a briefing on the work of OAU and set out how the regional organization perceived its cooperation with the Group. The draft statement by the

Chairman of the Group and the draft introductory remarks by the President for the public meeting on 22 May were submitted to the Group. The Chairman also indicated that all outstanding papers on selected Working Group items should be submitted by late May.

11. On 22 May, the Security Council held a day-long public meeting on the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, presided over by the Minster for Foreign Affairs of Singapore. The meeting was envisaged as an "outreach" session, at which the Working Group's role, function and programme of work were explained to the wider membership, who also had the opportunity to provide their views and inputs. After a briefing by the Chairman of the Working Group, statements were made by the President of the Economic and Social Council, Ambassador Ivan Šimonović (Croatia), the Permanent Observer of OAU and the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, before non-members of the Council took the floor. Altogether 35 non-members spoke, and a number of Council members reacted in an informal way to help achieve a genuinely interactive debate.

12. The high level of participation was an indication of the keen interest demonstrated by Member States in providing inputs and recommendations for the Council's work on Africa. At the end of the debate, the President of the Security Council summed up the discussion, under his own responsibility, by drawing oral conclusions, which could be fed into the future work of the Working Group. The conclusions were divided into two parts: drawing out the general points that were made and listing some of the specific suggestions that were put across for the Working Group to pursue.

13. The general sentiment was that the meeting was a productive and useful one. Numerous delegations expressed appreciation to the presidency for initiating this debate and thereby getting the Security Council to focus on Africa. One Permanent Representative from the continent, for example, noted that the meeting demonstrated that Africa featured high on the agenda of the Security Council and underlined the importance that Singapore attached to African concerns, the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore attesting to this.

Africa Day

14. At the invitation of the Chairman of the African Group and the Permanent Observer of OAU, the President of the Security Council made a formal statement at a special solemn meeting of the African Group on 24 May to commemorate Africa Day, which falls on 25 May. In his statement made on behalf of the Security Council, the President expressed the Council's solidarity with Africa on the auspicious occasion. He reiterated the Council's strong message of support as well as its solidarity with Africa in the management of the challenges and the opportunities that faced the continent. The statement noted: "Africa Day celebrates African unity. It is being commemorated globally. We have not yet created a Security Council day. But the members of the Security Council remain united in their determination to help prevent deadly conflict and to secure durable peace in Africa." In informal consultations on 29 May, the members of the Council agreed to circulate the statement in a note by the President (see S/2002/597).

Report of the mission to the Great Lakes region

15. Ambassador Jean-David Levitte, Permanent Representative of France and head of the Security Council mission to the Great Lakes region, presented the report of the mission to the Security Council at a public meeting on 14 May. He reported that the mission had successfully given impetus to the peace processes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. On the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the mission had impressed upon all parties that they should continue with their discussions until a truly inclusive political agreement was achieved. The mission had also put forward several ideas to help the peace process. Those ideas were well received. On Burundi, the mission had called on the armed groups to cease all hostilities, and to commence negotiations for a ceasefire without further delay. The mission noted that the situation remained very fragile despite significant improvement in the situation in Burundi compared to a year ago. It was therefore important that the Government proceed with previously agreed reforms — with or without a ceasefire in place — and that the international community commence with the disbursement of the donations pledged so that peace dividends could be delivered to the people.

16. The Security Council held informal consultations of the whole on 17 May to further consider the report

and recommendations of the mission. Ambassador Levitte emphasized that the Democratic Republic of the Congo was at a crossroads in the wake of the inter-Congolese dialogue in Sun City. There was a real danger of the partition of the country if the two rival groups that had emerged from the Sun City talks held firm to their positions. On the other hand, if all parties built on the many areas where universal agreement existed, they might be able to achieve an all-inclusive political agreement and accordingly form a truly representative transitional government. Ambassador Levitte emphasized that the Security Council could play a critical role in helping to bring about a positive outcome.

17. Council members stressed that the Security Council should provide strong support to the initiatives of the regional countries to solve the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They also emphasized that all efforts to bring about national reconciliation should be consistent with the inter-Congolese dialogue, as spelled out in the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. There was agreement that MONUC should be reinforced to attain its mandated establishment strength as soon as possible, to allow it to effectively discharge its assigned tasks. On Burundi, Council members were in agreement that letters should be sent to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to sensitize them to the critical role of economic assistance in the peace effort.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

18. On 2 May, the Security Council received a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia. In a statement to the press following the meeting, Council members reiterated the need for both parties to cooperate closely with the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and UNMEE in the implementation of the boundary decision. Council members also encouraged the early establishment of a common framework for the demarcation process.

19. Council members met again on 9 May to receive an update from the Department on Peacekeeping Operations on the situation in Eritrea and Ethiopia. It was decided that the Council would meet with the two parties in separate private meetings on 13 May to discuss the implementation of the demarcation decision and listen to the parties' concerns. During separate back-to-back private closed meetings with the Permanent Representative of Eritrea and the Chargé d'affaires of Ethiopian on 13 May, Council members commended both parties for their acceptance of the boundary decision and reaffirmed the importance of its expeditious and orderly implementation. Members also stressed that any unilateral action by the parties in this regard was unacceptable. Members looked forward to the proposed meeting with the Boundary Commission in The Hague, scheduled for 21 May, to discuss the coordination of modalities for demarcation. Council members reiterated their full support of and confidence in the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNMEE, including its Force Commander.

20. Following the meeting of the Boundary Commission and the two parties in The Hague on 21 and 22 May, members of the Council were briefed on 29 May by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. In a statement to the press following the consultations, members of the Council reiterated the importance of close consultations between the parties and the Boundary Commission and UNMEE on the implementation of the border delimitation decision, and welcomed in this regard the recent meeting in The Hague. Members of the Council also expressed their anticipation that a follow-up by Ethiopian authorities to the meeting in The Hague would soon be forthcoming, with the view to establishing the modalities for an expeditious implementation of the border delimitation decision.

Liberia

21. On 3 May, members of the Security Council received a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs on the Secretary-General's report on Liberia's compliance with paragraph 2 of resolution 1343 (2001). They were also briefed by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia, on the Committee's discussions on the recommendations contained in the Panel of Experts' supplementary report of the Panel of Experts. The Council conducted a review of the sanctions imposed on Liberia under paragraphs 5 to 7 of resolution 1343 (2001), as mandated by paragraph 23 of that resolution. A press statement on the consultations was issued at the end of the meeting.

22. On 6 May, the Council met briefly for further informal consultations to discuss the draft resolution

tabled by the United Kingdom and co-sponsored by the United States which was subsequently adopted as resolution 1408 (2002). By that resolution the Council extended the sanctions against Liberia with regard to the arms embargo, diamond ban and travel ban for another year, until 7 May 2003. The Council also called on the Government of Liberia to report to the sanctions Committee on the steps taken to establish transparent and internationally verifiable audit regimes for the Liberia shipping registry and the Liberian timber industry. ECOWAS was also invited to report regularly to the Committee on all activities undertaken by its members in the implementation of the resolution.

23. On 15 May, in response to developments in Liberia, members of the Council received a briefing during informal consultations by the Director of the Africa II Division of the Department of Political Affairs. In a statement to the press by the President, members of the Council expressed serious concern at the grave humanitarian situation, as the recent fighting had provoked increased human rights violations and new displacement of population. They called on the donor community to urgently provide adequate resources to relief agencies. Members of the Council condemned all attempts to take power by force. They urged the Liberian parties to resort to dialogue and supported the efforts by ECOWAS and others to make this dialogue possible. Members of the Council called on all States in the region to make all possible efforts to improve the situation, in particular by taking action to prevent armed individuals and groups from using their territories to prepare and commit attacks on neighbouring countries.

Sierra Leone

24. During informal consultations on 15 May, members of the Council welcomed the peaceful conduct of the presidential and parliamentary elections in Sierra Leone the previous day. They also noted the positive role of the United Kingdom and UNAMSIL in bringing this about.

25. On 23 May, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2002/14) congratulating the people of Sierra Leone for a successful election, and thanking UNAMSIL and the National Electoral Commission for ensuring that the elections were successful and peaceful. The Council also called on the international community to provide assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone, particularly for the Special Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Arria formula meeting on the situation in the Mano River Union region

26. France organized an Arria formula meeting on the human rights and the humanitarian situation in the Mano River Union on 21 May, chaired by the Permanent Representative of France, Ambassador Jean-David Levitte. The three speakers invited to brief Council members at the meeting were from Médecins sans Frontières, Amnesty International and the Human Rights Watch. The speakers emphasized the need for the international community to pay more attention to the humanitarian and human rights situation in the region. On Liberia, they expressed concern about the lack of political will among key international players to act decisively to deal with the growing crisis in the country.

Somalia

27. At informal consultations on 2 May, Norway introduced a draft resolution on Somalia, by which a team of 2 experts would be established for a limited duration of 30 days, in preparation for a panel of experts. The team will formulate an action plan detailing the resources and expertise that the Panel of Experts will require to be able to generate independent information on violations and for improving the enforcement of the arms embargo established under resolution 733 (1992). The Council adopted resolution 1407 (2002) as a presidential text on 3 May.

28. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, briefed the Council on 24 May on the situation in Somalia, after which the Council had a wide-ranging discussion. Council members encouraged further progress in the national reconciliation process, while expressing concern about the reported negative interference by external parties in Somalia. Members also condemned the recent kidnapping of the United Nations worker in Mogadishu. In addition, members reiterated the importance of the expeditious implementation of resolution 1407 (2002) and the presidential statement (S/PRST/2002/8), and discussed possible modalities for the proposed visits to the region by the Security Council working mission and the Chairman of the sanctions Committee. Following the consultations, the

President of the Council delivered a statement to the press.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

29. Under other matters during informal consultations on 15 May, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations gave a spot briefing on the latest developments in Kisangani, following the reported seizure of the principal local radio station by elements of RCD-Goma. It was agreed that the President of the Council would call in the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to convey the Council's concern over the situation. Given the potentially serious, albeit uncertain, nature of the situation, the Council kept the situation under close review. The Council President had two meetings with the Permanent Representative of Rwanda and briefed the Council subsequently.

30. At informal consultations on 16 May under other matters, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations provided an update on the situation in Kisangani. Subsequently, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Amos Namanga Ngongi, gave an update to the Council at informal consultations on 17 May on the situation in Kisangani. He reported that the situation was generally calm since the previous day, with no fresh outbursts of violence.

31. Following the events of 24 May in Kisangani, the Under-Secretary-General once again briefed Council members during informal consultations on the situation. He reported that the RCD leadership had re-established control, and were in the process of rounding up their opponents. Figures for those killed ranged from 50 to 200, as RCD carried out reprisals. The members of the Council also discussed the follow-up action to the Security Council mission to the Great Lakes, on the basis of draft letters prepared by the leader of the mission, the Permanent Representative of France.

32. The Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2002/17) on 24 May on the situation in Kisangani, by which it condemned the killings, particularly of civilians, and called for an immediate cessation of all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. It also drew the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the seriousness of the situation in Kisangani. Finally, the Council reiterated the importance of proceeding with the full demilitarization of the city.

Angola

33. On 17 May, the Security Council decided, by resolution 1412 (2002), to suspend, for a period of 90 days, the travel ban on UNITA leaders and adult members of their families, which had been imposed under paragraphs 4 (a) and (b) of resolution 1127 (1997). This was intended to help facilitate the transition of UNITA from an armed group to a political party, and to allow UNITA leaders to travel for meetings with the Government of Angola aimed at achieving national reconciliation in the country.

Asia

Afghanistan

34. During informal consultations of the whole on 15 May, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs updated Council members on developments in Afghanistan six weeks before the Afghan Interim Administration would be replaced by the Afghan Transitional Administration through the convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga. A joint body, consisting of the Afghan Ministries of Defence and the Interior, the Afghan Police, the National Security Directorates, ISAF and the United Nations was meeting weekly to coordinate security in the run-up to the Loya Jirga. Concern was raised however over whether the international community had any specific measures to deal with the security environment during the convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga. While UNAMA and the Independent Electoral Commission have so far depended on civilian observers to diffuse conflicts, such a mechanism might not be sufficient to deal with the most serious threats. Any security threats or intimidation could affect the standing of the Transitional Authority. Council members expressed strong support for the work of the United Nations, in particular the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lakhdar Brahimi. Noting that the transfer of command of ISAF from the United Kingdom to Turkey was on track, some Council members also expressed their intention to work towards the adoption of a technical rollover resolution to extend the mandate of ISAF during the open debate on Afghanistan scheduled for 23 May. Some Council members supported the appeal made to support the

Afghan security infrastructure either in cash or in kind, including at the Geneva security meeting scheduled for 17 May.

35. The Security Council held an open debate on the situation in Afghanistan on 23 May presided by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore. Following a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, all 15 Council members and 9 non-members participated in the debate. At the end of the debate, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1413 (2002), by which it extended the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan for a period of six months beyond 20 June.

36. Most speakers noted that Emergency Loya Jirga was a pivotal test for the Bonn process and the most important political milestone in Afghanistan since the formation of the Afghan Interim Administration in December 2001. While acknowledging that the process had been difficult, the progress so far demonstrated the capacity for reconciliation and compromise among Afghans. There was a general understanding that the Loya Jirga was too important for Afghanistan's future to be discarded for its imperfections.

37. The security situation in Afghanistan, in particular outside Kabul in the east and south of the country, however, remained a major source of concern. Political and financial efforts in support of a new Afghanistan would be seriously compromised by a lack of tangible progress in the security situation. In view of the absence of an expansion of ISAF beyond Kabul, the international community was urged to address these legitimate security issues as quickly as possible, including funding the initiatives presented at the second security donors conference held at Geneva on 17 May to secure real financial commitments for security sector reform. Many participants in the open debate took the opportunity to announce their respective contributions.

38. With regard to relief and recovery, refugee return, reconstruction and development, the United Nations believed that, while a large-scale presence and funding requirement for those programmes would be needed for the immediate future, the United Nations would progressively reduce its presence in the medium term. The role of neighbouring countries in both the security and economic spheres was acknowledged. Despite the progress in the past six months, it was too early to take the Bonn process for granted, and to assume that it was cemented firmly into the destiny of the country.

East Timor

39. At a private meeting of the Security Council with troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on 6 May, issues with respect to the successor mission, the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor, were discussed. The President noted that, as had emerged from the public meeting on East Timor on 26 and 29 April 2002, there was full support for the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the establishment of UNMISET contained in his report on East Timor. troop-contributing countries raised their concerns and questions on the command and control arrangements for the police and military, a mandate under Chapter VII for UNMISET, the continuation of UNTAET rules of engagement for UNMISET, the status-of-forces agreement, and the timing of the adoption of the resolution authorizing the establishment of UNMISET. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hedi Annabi, addressed the concerns and questions, stressing the importance of UNMISET being given a Chapter VII mandate and the rules of engagement for UNTAET. He also highlighted the importance of the agreements on the command and control arrangements and the status-of-forces agreement being signed at independence, and cooperation between the East Timor authorities and the United Nations mission on the ground continuing. The President undertook to appeal to the Council to adopt the UNMISET resolution early.

40. The resolution authorizing the establishment of UNMISET was adopted unanimously as resolution 1410 (2002) on 17 May. Council members had agreed in informal consultations the day before to the draft resolution introduced by the United Kingdom, and to its adoption on 17 May. This agreement was maintained in informal consultations on 17 May, as there was no consensus on one delegation's proposal to add a paragraph to the draft concerning the issue of immunity of personnel in UNMISET from surrender or transfer to any international tribunal without the consent of the State contributing the personnel. Council members agreed that the issue could be revisited.

41. On 20 May, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore chaired a public meeting of the Security Council to celebrate East Timor's independence. The

meeting opened with a statement by the Deputy Secretary-General. Thereafter non-members spoke, followed by Council members. In her statement, the Deputy Secretary-General stressed that the United Nations would work with the East Timorese as they sought to strengthen the democratic institutions and to promote social and economic development, and urged the international community to remain committed to East Timor. She announced that the Secretary-General had received East Timor's application for admission to membership in the United Nations, and looked forward to its consideration by the Council. Council members and non-members alike welcomed East Timor's independence, and paid tribute to the people and leaders of East Timor. They also expressed appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations, in particular the Secretary-General and his Special Representative. They cautioned however that East Timor faced many challenges ahead, and emphasized that the international community should continue to provide assistance to East Timor. Delegations welcomed the establishment of UNMISET, and stressed the importance of continuing multilateral and bilateral assistance. They also welcomed the visit by the President of Indonesia, Megawati Soekarnoputri, to participate in East Timor's independence ceremony, and stressed the importance of good relations between East Timor and its neighbours. They looked forward to welcoming East Timor into the United Nations. A presidential statement (S/PRST/2002/13), reflecting these views, was adopted at the end of the meeting. The Council had agreed in informal consultations on 16 May to the text of the draft statement, introduced by Singapore.

42. As agreed in informal consultations on 22 May, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and previous practice, the Council immediately took the necessary steps on the application of the Democratic Republic of East Timor for admission to membership in the United Nations. A formal meeting, chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, was held on 22 May to refer the application to the Committee on the Admission of New Members. On 23 May, the Committee considered and unanimously decided to recommend to the Security Council the admission of East Timor to membership in the United Nations at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly. On the same day, at a formal meeting chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, the Council adopted without a vote resolution 1414 (2002) recommending to the General Assembly that East Timor be admitted to membership in the United Nations. A statement was also made by the President on behalf of Council members (S/PRST/2002/15), extending congratulations to East Timor on this historic occasion. The Council noted with great satisfaction East Timor's solemn commitment to upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to fulfilling all the obligations contained therein. The Council also looked forward to East Timor joining them as a Member of the United Nations and to working closely with its representatives.

Europe

Cyprus

43. In informal consultations on 2 May, Council members heard a further interim report from the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Alvaro de Soto, on Cyprus, concerning the direct talks between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders which have been in progress since January pursuant to their agreement of 4 December 2001. In a statement to the press, Council members regretted that it had not proved possible to make more progress in the period of negotiations since the Council was last briefed on 4 April. They expressed the view that the time had now come to set down on paper areas of common ground between the two sides, with the aim of establishing the component parts of a comprehensive settlement which would take fully into consideration relevant United Nations resolutions and treaties; and, where differences remain, to narrow and remove those through a process of negotiation focused on compromise formulations. They urged both sides, in particular the Turkish side, to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General's Special Adviser in such an effort. Council members welcomed and supported the Secretary-General's intention to visit the island in the near future in pursuance of the mission entrusted to him by the Council in resolution 1250 (1999). They hoped that this would enable decisive progress to be made in the face-to-face negotiations in the period before the June target date for agreement, endorsed again by the Council.

Georgia

44. Following a request from one Council member, Council members were briefed by the Director of the Europe and Latin America Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, on the latest joint UNOMIG-Commonwealth of Independent States peacekeeping force patrol in the upper Kodori Valley, under any other matters, at informal consultations on 16 May. The Director reported on the findings of the latest joint patrol, conducted from 3 to 5 May, the first since the deadline of 10 April for the complete withdrawal of Georgian troops from the upper Kodori Valley. He also informed Council members of the strength of the Georgian military presence in the upper Kodori Valley, which the Minister for Special Assignments of Georgia had officially communicated to UNOMIG on 24 April. The Council was informed that another joint patrol was in the upper Kodori Valley from 16 to 18 May.

Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

45. As agreed by the Security Council, an open briefing on Kosovo was held on 16 May at which no delegations made statements. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the submission by the Kosovo Government of its draft programme to the Assembly, the delay in the participation of the Kosovo Serb Return Coalition (Povratak Coalition) in the provisional institutions of self-government, some friction in the division of responsibilities between the provisional institutions and UNMIK under the constitutional framework, and the postponement of the municipal elections. The Under-Secretary-General also briefed the Council on the situation in Mitrovica, and developments in the enforcement of the rule of law, the return of displaced persons and the issue of missing persons.

46. Under other matters, in informal consultations following the open briefing, the President briefed Council members on the points which the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had wanted him to convey to the Council. These included the impending participation of the Povratak Coalition in the provisional institutions of self-government, and the programme of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia for returns of minority internally displaced persons. There were also concerns over the UNMIK privatization plan, the development of benchmarks, the implementation of the Common Document, and the situation in northern Mitrovica.

47. On 22 May, under other matters in informal consultations, the President informed Council members of a concern raised by the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia over the plan of the Assembly of Kosovo and Metohija to adopt a resolution aimed at rejecting the border agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the UNMIK-Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Common Document. Several Council members shared the same concern. They were also concerned about reports that the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had been shot at from the territory of Kosovo. The Council agreed to request the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to convey the Security Council's advice to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo to prevent the adoption of the said resolution. In a statement to the press, Council members called on Kosovo's elected leaders to work constructively, in full cooperation with UNMIK, for the full implementation of resolution 1244 (1999). They reaffirmed the Security Council's position in its presidential statement of 7 March 2001 that the border agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia must be respected. They also reiterated their full support for the efforts of the Special Representative.

48. When the Kosovo Assembly did adopt a "resolution on the protection of the territorial integrity of Kosovo", by which it rejected the border agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the UNMIK-Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Common Document, the President immediately on 23 May made a statement to the press on behalf of Council members rejecting the said resolution and expressing full support for the determination by the Special Representative declaring the resolution null and void. On 24 May, the Council followed up with the adoption of a presidential statement (S/PRST/2002/16), in which it reaffirmed its previous resolutions on Kosovo, in particular that supporting the border agreement and the Common Document. The Council also deplored the Kosovo Assembly's adoption of the said resolution, and concurred with the Special Representative that such resolutions and decisions by the Assembly, on matters

which did not fall within its field of competence, were null and void. The Council called on Kosovo's elected leaders to focus their attention on the urgent matters for which they had responsibility, in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999) and the constitutional framework. In addition, the Council reiterated its full support for the Special Representative and urged Kosovo's leaders to work in close cooperation with UNMIK and KFOR.

Middle East

Iraq

49. The Secretary-General briefed the Council members during informal consultations on 3 May on the outcome of his dialogue with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Naji Sabri, and his delegation from 1 to 3 May. The Secretary-General informed Council members that his delegation consisted of the Director General of IAEA, Mohamed ElBaradei and the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, Hans Blix, who were also present at the informal consultations to provide focused briefings on their respective areas of work. The Iraqi delegation comprised leading Iraqi experts on disarmament issues. The purpose of the talks was to ensure the speediest possible implementation of Security Council resolutions, particularly those related to disarmament requirements. The Secretary-General expressed hope for a positive and concrete outcome at the next round of talks.

50. Under any other matters, during informal consultations on 6 May, the United States tabled, on behalf of the five permanent members of the Council, a package of documents, which comprised (a) a technical resolution extending the humanitarian programme in Iraq into the next phase and adopting the goods review list called for in resolution 1382 (2001); (b) procedures for the implementation of the goods review list; (c) a standard application form for suppliers, and (d) the latest revised version of the goods review list. On behalf of the sponsors, the United States indicated its preference that the resolution be adopted as soon as possible to give the implementing agencies sufficient time to institute the new arrangements. Three rounds of experts' meetings, chaired by the United States as coordinator of the draft text, were held during the week to discuss the draft resolution, circulated in provisional form on 7 May as S/2002/532.

51. The Security Council met in informal consultations on 13 May to discuss the draft resolution on Iraq. The United States, on behalf also of the other sponsors, reported to Council members on the outcome of discussions at the expert level. Members of the Council discussed the timing of the adoption of the resolution. Following a request by one member, it was agreed that the formal meeting to adopt the resolution would be scheduled the next morning to give delegations time to consult capitals to reach consensus on the text.

52. Following informal consultations on 14 May, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1409 (2002) on Iraq. The resolution was sponsored by the five permanent members, together with Bulgaria and Norway. Before the vote, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement explaining that country's decision to join the consensus in support of the resolution. By this important resolution the Council extended the oil-for-food programme for another six months and adopted the goods review list which will, for the next phase of the oil-for-food programme, institute more streamlined procedures for goods to be purchased and shipped to Iraq. The resolution is the second major change to processing of humanitarian supply contracts under the programme since the adoption of resolution 1284 (1999), which increased the quantity of oil that Iraq could sell under the programme and created new fast-track procedures for certain humanitarian goods. The new procedures to implement the goods review list are designed to further facilitate approval of essential civilian goods shipped under the programme. For phase XII of the humanitarian programme, which starts on 30 May, only contracts for items included in the goods review list would be examined by the Iraq sanctions Committee. All other items would be processed directly by the Office of the Iraq Programme.

53. On 28 May, there was an exchange of letters between the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Iraq, extending the memorandum of understanding on the oil-for-food programme. Subsequently, during informal consultations on 29 May, the Executive Director of the Iraq Programme, Benon Sevan, provided an update on (a) the developments and main issues relating to the implementation of the humanitarian programme and (b) on the measures taken by his Office in putting in place the new procedures for the processing of contracts, as required under Security

Council resolution 1409 (2002). Council members also had before them a very comprehensive note by the Office of the Iraq Programme of 24 May reviewing and describing developments in the implementation of the Programme.

54. In his update, the Executive Director informed Council members that the Office of the Iraq Programme would be applying the revised procedures gradually with a goal of having them fully in place no later than 15 July. He also noted that programme implementation faced a financial crisis of growing magnitude because of the drop in Iraqi oil revenues under the programme. He expressed the hope that the sanctions Committee could resolve the difficulties encountered with regard to the pricing of Iraqi crude oil. He also informed Council members that the Office had decided that, during phase XII, starting on 30 May, it would consolidate existing activities undertaken by United Nations agencies and programmes in the three northern governorates rather than initiate new projects. In addition, he raised the issue of the use of programme funds for local procurement. Council members welcomed and expressed support for the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to implement the changes stemming from the adoption of resolution 1409 (2002). At the same time, Council members expressed concern at the difficulties faced in the implementation of the programme, particularly the funding crisis that it faced. Council members also gave their preliminary reactions to the proposal by the Office of the Iraq Programme on the use of programme funds for local procurement.

55. It was agreed that the presentation of the 90-day report would follow the same format as the current briefing while the 180-day report would be presented in a full written format.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

56. On 24 May, the Security Council held a private meeting with troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). The Deputy Director of the Asia and the Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the Force for the period from 16 November 2001 to 17 May 2002. There was a short exchange of views, during which one Council member stated its views on UNDOF and a troop-contributing country posed some questions to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

57. At informal consultations on 29 May, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations introduced the Secretary-General's report. Council members reviewed the situation in the area and the activities of UNDOF. They also considered the draft resolution to renew the mandate of UNDOF, and the draft complementary statement by the President of the Security Council, prepared by the presidency. Council members agreed to the suggestion made by one Council member to extend the mandate of UNDOF by seven months instead of the usual six months to synchronize the mandate renewal to the United Nations budget cycle. Council members agreed with the sentiments expressed in the draft statement that the situation in the Middle East was likely to remain tense unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached. In this regard, some Council members referred to several diplomatic initiatives, including the Arab peace initiative, which could bring the process forward. Council members agreed to circulate the two draft documents, as amended, in provisional form, for adoption the following day. Accordingly, on 30 May, the draft resolution extending the mandate of UNDOF by seven months was adopted unanimously as resolution 1415 (2002) and the complementary statement by the President was issued as S/PRST/2002/18. Subsequently, the Permanent Mission of Japan conveyed a written protest addressed to the President of the Council, all UNDOF troop-contributing countries and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to register regret that the seven-month mandate instead of the usual six months was decided without prior explanation and notice to troop-contributing countries.

The Middle East, including the Palestinian question

58. Council members met in informal consultations in the late afternoon of 1 May to discuss the Secretary-General's letter of 1 May concerning his efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1405 (2002). His letter provided a chronology of events and his analysis leading to his decision to disband the fact-finding team. There was an exhaustive and comprehensive discussion on how the Council should respond to the Secretary-General's letter and a draft resolution tabled by the Arab Group. Various attempts were made in the interim in the corridors, within regional groups, and with the facilitation of the

President to draft alternative proposals that could command the support of Council members. Before midnight on 1 May, all 15 heads of delegation were invited by the President to an informal private meeting in his office to find creative and practical ways for a solution. This effort did not succeed. Just past midnight on 2 May, it became clear that the differences could not be bridged. The Council therefore proceeded to the Security Council Chamber to take action on the Arab draft resolution but eventually a decision was taken to postpone action. The President then resumed informal consultations during which Council members agreed to a proposal that the Council send a letter to the Secretary-General in response. The presidency was tasked to prepare a draft. The presidency was also told to convey this decision to the press. Later in the morning of 2 May, during informal consultations, the presidency circulated a draft letter for consideration by Council members. Unfortunately, Council members could not reach an agreement on the substance or the form of the Council's response to the Secretary-General's letter. Consequently, no action was taken on the draft letter.

59. On 3 May, the Secretary-General briefed Council members in informal consultations on the outcome of the meeting on 2 May of the Quartet (consisting of the United States of America, the Russia Federation, the European Union and the United Nations) in Washington, D.C., hosted by the United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell. According to the Secretary-General, in addition to commenting on recent developments, the Quartet agreed on a three-pronged approach to move the process forward: addressing security, economic and political elements in a parallel and comprehensive way. The Quartet also agreed on the need to urgently prepare an international conference which would provide an opportunity to agree on concrete steps and timelines needed to reach the collective goal of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and within secure and recognized borders.

60. The intensive period of discussions on the Middle East ended on the evening of 3 May in an open debate, with the participation of 38 speakers, including the 15 Council members and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Council adjourned after this open debate without taking any further action.

61. In informal consultations on 15 May, Council members heard a regular briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. Council members had a general exchange on a number of issues, namely, the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including the urgent need to rebuild and reform the infrastructure of the Palestinian Authority through strong donor support, the situation across the Blue Line, and the various diplomatic efforts under way, including preparations for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. Council members remained fully supportive of the efforts exerted by the Secretary-General and his envoys, including through the Quartet.

Arria formula meeting on the Middle East

62. On 7 May, an Arria formula meeting on the situation in the Middle East in the context of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) concerning women and peace and security was held at the initiative of the Permanent Representative of Norway, Ambassador Peter Kolby. A Palestinian woman, Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas, and an Israeli woman, Terry Greenblat, both involved for several years in the promotion of peace and human rights in their communities, shared with members of the Security Council the nature of their work, the realities on the ground, prospects for peace, and the role of the international community including the Security Council. Ms. Abu-Dayyeh Shamas is the Founder and Director of the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling in East Jerusalem, a Palestinian non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion of the social and legal status of Palestinian women. Ms. Greenblat is the director of Bat Shalom, the national Israeli women's peace organization and a core member organization of the Women's Coalition for Peace. Their involvement in the Arria formula meeting was facilitated by Equality Now.

Thematic issues

Children and armed conflict

63. On 7 May, the Security Council held a public meeting on the issue of children and armed conflict, one day prior to the start of the special session of the General Assembly on children. In his opening remarks, the President highlighted the Security Council's support for the special session and the Council's

commitment to this issue. He noted that the issue had been progressively mainstreamed into the Council's peace and security agenda, as demonstrated in Security Council resolution 1379 (2001), which laid out clearly the Council's extensive support and guidance for international efforts to protect and assist children in armed conflict.

64. During the meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu; the former Education Minister of Mozambique and former independent expert on children and armed conflict, Graça Machel; and the Executive Director of UNICEF, Carol Bellamy, made statements. In addition, Ms. Bellamy introduced three child delegates to the Children's Forum — Wilmot from Liberia, Eliza from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Jose from East Timor — who gave personal accounts describing the experiences of children caught in armed conflict and appealing for an end to war. The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2002/12) at the end of the meeting.

Other issues

Open-ended Working Group on Security Council reform

65. The Open-ended Working Group on Security Council reform met with Council members on 15 May for an interactive discussion on cluster II issues. A "troika" of Permanent Representatives consisting of the President, a permanent member of the Council and a non-permanent member represented the Security Council. The meeting was largely a question and answer session, the troika responding to interventions by members of the Working Group. The key issues discussed included transparency and outreach, the veto, wrap-up meetings, monthly reports of the President of the Council, strengthening cooperation between the General Assembly and the Security Council, time limits and the speakers' list, the group of friends mechanism and implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Working Group on documentation and other procedural questions

66. The informal Working Group concerning the Council's documentation and other procedural questions met on 8 May at a meeting chaired by the Singapore presidency. There was a general debate on wrap-up sessions based on the discussion paper prepared by the Singapore Mission and on the topics and format for the wrap-up session scheduled for 31 May.

67. It was also agreed that the Singapore presidency would circulate, by 13 May, a list of the possible topics and proposed format for the May wrap-up session. The comments on the list of topics and format were collated by the Singapore Mission for discussion at the next meeting of the Working Group, on 21 May. The Working Group was also informed that a draft letter from the Singapore presidency addressed to the United Nations Member States on the agreed list of topics and format for the wrap-up session would be finalized and issued by 24 May so that adequate notice could be given to the United Nations membership for the wrap-up session.

68. The Working Group also discussed possible options for the collation of factual information on procedural developments in the Council and on its working methods, as well as the appropriate manner in which this information could be circulated to the United Nations membership. It was agreed that the Working Group would consider this matter further at its next meeting. The Group also considered practices relating to public debates of the Council and the implementation of the note by the President (S/2002/316) of 26 March 2002 on the issuance of fact sheets.

69. On 21 May, the informal Working Group met for the second time under the Singapore presidency. The Working Group first had a discussion on the practices relating to public debates of the Council with regard to the seating of non-members of the Council and the inscription of non-members on the speakers' list.

70. The next item discussed at the meeting was wrap-up sessions. The revised paper, prepared by the Singapore Mission on the issue of wrap-up sessions in general, was circulated to the Working Group but not discussed because of time constraints. It was agreed that the revised paper would be taken up at the next meeting of the Working Group. There was however, a discussion on the topics and format for the wrap-up session scheduled for 31 May. It was agreed that a draft letter from the President of the Council to the United Nations membership giving the details of the agreed list of topics and the format of the wrap-up session

would be circulated to the members of the Working Group for approval under the silence procedure. It was further agreed that the draft letter would also disseminate information on the usual practice for the inscription on the speakers' list of non-members of the Council. As no objections were received on the draft letter, it was subsequently issued on 23 May and also posted on the Singapore presidency web site.

71. The Working Group also had a discussion on the implementation of the note by the President (S/2002/199) on the new format of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly. The Group clarified certain details raised by the Secretariat on some aspects for the new format. It was agreed that the note would be reissued for technical reasons.

72. The Working Group continued their discussion on possible options for the collation of factual information on procedural developments in the Council and on its working methods for 2001. Two options were also presented to the Working Group on the collation of previous notes by the President and/or presidential statements dealing with changes to the Council's working methods and procedure. The Working Group will continue its discussions on this matter at its next meeting. The Secretariat also provided information on the implementation of the note by the President (S/2002/316) on the circulation of fact sheets, as requested at the meeting of 8 May.

73. During informal consultations on 28 May, the Security Council discussed two mandates that had been given to the informal Working Group. First, on 16 April, the Working Group was tasked to study a report prepared by the Secretariat on procedural developments in the Council in 2001 and to make recommendations regarding the circulation of the report. Second, on 6 May, the Working Group was mandated to look into a complaint by the Permanent Representative of Canada on the seating arrangements of non-members wishing to speak at public meetings of the Council. On the first mandate, Council members agreed that the report as revised by the Secretariat would be circulated as a Security Council document with a covering note by the President explaining that it was intended for use as background information for non-members, in the spirit of promoting greater transparency on the work of the Council. On the second mandate, as the Working Group could not reach consensus, one member of the Council proposed that the President circulate a draft rule that would formalize an existing practice.

74. In informal consultations on 29 May, under other matters, the members of the Council continued their discussion on the issue of the seating arrangements for non-members at Council meetings. A draft note by the President was circulated that would formalize an existing practice by which non-members speaking at Council meetings would be seated on alternate sides of the President at the Council table. After some deliberations, the members of the Council agreed to the issuance of the note by the President (S/2002/591).

75. The President also sought the guidance of the members of the Council on the enforcement of the format for the wrap-up session of 31 May as set out in the letter dated 23 May from the President to the United Nations Members. There was also a brief discussion on the objectives and usefulness of the retreat held earlier in the month at Pocantico.

Informal Working Group on the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda

76. The informal Working Group on the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda held a meeting on 10 May chaired by the Singapore presidency. The first agenda item concerned a proposal to amend the statutes of the Tribunals to address the issue of dual nationality of judges in line with the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice. This arose out of a request from the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, who wrote to the then President of the Security Council in November 2001, concerning the dual nationality of certain judges in the Tribunals and the potential problems that might arise from this with regard to Judge Patrick Robinson's eligibility for assignment to the Appeals Chamber of the Tribunal. The Council referred this issue to the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat. On 19 December 2001, the Legal Counsel, Hans Corell, briefed the members on the possible options for dealing with the situation of Judge Robinson. It was then decided that the matter should be referred to the informal Working Group of the Security Council.

77. The Working Group subsequently recommended that the President of the Council should write to the Legal Counsel to seek the assistance of the Office of Legal Affairs in preparing a draft resolution that would resolve the lacuna in the statutes of the two Tribunals by following the approach taken in Article 3, paragraph

2, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice. In response to the President's letter of 27 February, the Legal Counsel submitted a draft resolution on 11 April for the consideration of the Security Council, through the Working Group.

78. At its meeting on 10 May, the Working Group considered the draft resolution provided by the Office of Legal Affairs and agreed to consider a revised draft resolution the following week. It was also agreed that the President of the Council could introduce the draft resolution at consultations of the whole during the following week, for the approval of members of the Council and for its early adoption thereafter. The revised draft resolution was subsequently adopted by the Council on 17 May 2002 as resolution 1411 (2002).

79. The second item considered by the Working Group on 10 May related to the request by the International Tribunal for Rwanda for the creation of a pool of 18 ad litem judges (as submitted to the Secretary-General in document A/56/265-S/2001/764 and Corr.1 in July 2001). In this respect and in the light of previous discussion by the Working Group of the letter dated 4 March 2002 from the Secretary-General (A/56/861-S/2002/241) giving an update on the Tribunal's proposal, the Working Group agreed with the suggestion of the Chairman that it would be appropriate to follow up on the request by first responding to the Secretary-General's letter through the President of the Council. It was further agreed that the members of the Working Group would submit pointers for the draft letter to the Chairman by 17 May and that a drafting group of the Working Group would prepare the first draft of the letter from the President, for the consideration of the Working Group. The ad hoc drafting group met on 30 May and a draft letter was prepared and circulated for the consideration of the Working Group at its next meeting.

80. The Working Group also heard a briefing from the Office of Legal Affairs on questions raised at previous meetings relating to the proposal by the President of the International Tribunal for Yugoslavia for the ad litem judges of the Tribunal to be given powers to adjudicate in pre-trial proceedings and on compensation to persons wrongly detained, prosecuted or convicted. Both proposals are contained in document S/2002/304 dated 25 March 2002. The Working Group also discussed the issuance of reports requested from the Secretary-General.

Working Group on peacekeeping operations

81. The Working Group on peacekeeping operations met on 30 May to discuss the issue of military advice to the Security Council. There was a preliminary discussion on one member's proposal on including military representation from Council members, major troop-contributing countries and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the new consultative mechanism established under the note by the President of the Security Council of 14 January; and another member's proposal on exploring ways of using the Military Staff Committee by engaging the non-permanent members in its activities. Under any other matters, there was a short discussion on the approach in initiating the new consultative mechanism.

Security Council retreat

82. As decided during the retreat, the President of the Security Council briefed members at informal consultations on 15 May on the outcome of the Security Council retreat with the Secretary-General on 10 and 11 May at Pocantico.

83. The Council retreat had a three-part agenda. The first part related to the responsibilities of the Security Council. The second part focused on the report on the responsibility to protect, which was introduced by its authors, the Honourable Gareth Evans and Ambassador Mohammed Sahnoun, who had been invited as special guests to the retreat. The third and final part centred on the capacities, working methods and procedure of the Security Council.

84. For the first part, the following questions were posed by the facilitator selected for the session, Ambassador Kishore Mahbubani, Permanent Representative of Singapore:

- The Charter of the United Nations confers "primary responsibility" for the maintenance of international peace and security on the Security Council. Yet, as the members balance principle with prudence, many disputes are neither raised nor discussed in the Council. Can the Council work out reasonable criteria to decide which disputes should fall within its "primary responsibility"? Which should not? Why?
- In responding to threats to international peace and security, Council members weigh both national interest and collective security considerations in

formulating the Council's responses. Often national interests trump collective security. How can Council members factor in collective security responsibilities more effectively?

- The Charter also notes that the Security Council acts on behalf of all the United Nations Member States. Does the Council have any obligation of accountability, directly or indirectly, to the United Nations or the international community? Should the Council develop autonomous self-regulatory systems of accountability to supplement existing measures?
- The permanent members serve as primary custodians of the Security Council. Do they have any special obligations that flow out of this privileged position? Permanent members already contribute more for peacekeeping budgets. Should they also support Council decisions in other ways?
- The Council has significantly increased its output in recent years: resolutions, presidential statements, peacekeeping operations, sanctions committees. Whose responsibility is it to do a comprehensive evaluation of the output? How consistent has the Council been in implementing principles expressed, for instance, in its own presidential statements? (For example, protection of women, children, etc.)

85. The Council members held a substantive discussion on the five questions, focusing primarily on the need for Council members to balance their national interests with their collective security responsibilities when formulating Council decisions. The second part of the retreat, on the report on the responsibility to protect, also yielded a good discussion. Although no definite conclusions were reached, members were made aware that in the event of a recurrence of a situation like those of Rwanda or Srebrenica, they could draw from past experience and refer to the report by Sahnoun and Evans. For the final part of the retreat, the facilitator of this part, Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, posed the following questions:

- How can the Security Council best manage its agenda and develop its working methods in a time-effective manner taking account of the need to balance transparency and operational effectiveness? Should new mechanisms (for example, parallel consultations) be established to ease the load?
- How can Council missions (such as the recent trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo) be used most effectively? Does the current rule of universal participation help or hinder their effectiveness?
- How might the Secretariat improve its presentation of information to the Council?
- How might external information and points of view of interested Governments and others be better brought to the attention of the Council? (Role of the Arria formula, private meetings with invited participants, external briefings etc.)

86. A number of issues were discussed in depth, including transparency, agenda management, the role of Council missions, wrap-up sessions and other questions concerning Council procedure and working methods.

Wrap-up session

87. On the final day of the Singapore presidency, a private meeting was held to wrap up the month's work, where non-members of the Council were encouraged to take part. The topics of the wrap-up discussion were Afghanistan, East Timor, Liberia, the Middle East, Sierra Leone, the Security Council mission to the Great Lakes region, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Africa and developments in the Security Council's working methods and procedure.

88. In his letter inviting non-members to participate in the wrap-up session, the President of the Security Council had encouraged all speakers to make frank and focused assessments of the role of the Council in dealing with any or all of the above-mentioned topics, so that the interventions could serve as useful guides for the future work of the Council. Speakers were encouraged to be as evaluative and reflective as possible in their interventions. Speakers were strictly limited to five-minute statements. The Permanent Representative of Singapore, in his capacity as the President of the Security Council, exercised the right to interrupt speakers who went beyond the time limit proscribed.

89. With the cooperation and understanding of Council members and non-members, 33 speakers participated in the 2-hour, 50-minute, morning session.

The floor was given alternatively to three Council members and non-members to ensure a genuinely interactive, substantive and constructive debate. After the wrap-up session, a communiqué was issued. In addition, the Permanent Mission of Singapore prepared, under its own responsibility, a 3-page summary paper on the main points raised at the wrap-up session, indicating the areas and suggestions for follow-up action. This is available on the Singapore Council presidency web site.

Conclusion

90. Singapore's presidency in May 2002 was its second during its Council term. It provided an opportunity to build on the efforts of previous presidencies in enhancing the working methods of the Council. In this regard, a number of procedural innovations were advanced in May to help sharpen the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council. To address the concerns of the wider membership in terms of transparency, full use was made of information technology with a one-stop information portal in the form of the Singapore presidency web site (www.mfa.gov.sg/unsc/). Simple tools like annotated agenda were also introduced with the aim of ensuring the smooth functioning of the Council in the discharge of its routine mandated items. In substantive terms, greater reflection and analysis were also encouraged, where possible, in the discussions of the Council. The Council retreat with the Secretary-General provided an excellent opportunity to develop this approach, while the wrap-up session at the end of the month facilitated a business-like review of the key items on the Council's agenda. Overall, an effort was made to balance the day-to-day operational work of the Security Council while bearing in mind its larger, long-term Charter-mandated responsibilities.